



CALIFORNIA'S ENERGY CHALLENGE

The energy challenge facing California is very real.

California continues to experience electrical shortages and rolling blackouts throughout the State. To reduce the risk of power outages, the most important thing we can do in the short term is reduce our demand for electricity and use energy more efficiently – be aware of your energy consumption.

Governor Gray Davis and leaders of the California Legislature are working with utility companies, generators and consumer groups to fashion long-term solutions for reliable and affordable electricity. The State has already implemented a plan to reduce consumption by a minimum of eight percent across the board.

And you have an important role to play right now.

We in California have the power of nearly 35 million people and are the sixth largest economy in the world. By reducing our electricity demand we can help avoid shortages and lower energy bills. In doing so we can assure that the State's economy continues its robust activities.

All you have to do is FLEX **YOUR** POWER.

Simple things that you can do right now to reduce demand and cut your own energy costs:

For Consumers:

- Turn thermostats down to 68 degrees or below. Reduce settings to 55 degrees before going to sleep or when away for the day. (For each 1 degree, you will save up to 5% on your heating costs.)
- Turn off non-essential lights, lights in unoccupied spaces and appliances. Use task lighting rather than illuminating the entire room.
- Avoid running large appliances such as washers, dryers, and electric ovens during peak demand hours from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you have an electric water heater, use hot water sparingly during the peak hours.
- Close shades, blinds and drapes at night to reduce the amount of heat lost through windows.

- Close your fireplace damper when the fireplace is not in use.
- Don't hold the exterior door open when guests arrive or depart or you are carrying groceries in from the car.
- Buy only Energy Star appliances, products and lights.

For Business:

- Turn thermostats down to 68 degrees or below. Reduce settings to 55 degrees at the end of the day. (For each 1 degree less, you'll save up to 5% on your heating costs.)
- Turn off all unnecessary lights, especially in unused offices and conference rooms and turn down remaining lighting levels where possible. Use task lighting rather than lighting the entire room.
- Set computers, monitors, printers, copiers and other business equipment to their energy saving feature, and turn them off at the end of the day.
- Make your coffee and then turn off the pot – use the microwave to reheat latter cups. Not only will you use less energy, your coffee will taste fresher in the afternoon.
- Minimize energy usage during peak demand hours from 5:00 to 9:00 A.M. & then 4:00 to 7:00 P.M.
- Buy Energy Star appliances, products, and lights.

Tips for Kids and Teachers:

- Choose an energy monitor for your classroom every week who will make sure that energy is being used properly.
- Start an "Energy Patrol" at school and at home. Check out the California Energy Commission's website - www.energy.ca.gov/education for more ideas.
- At home, hold a ribbon up to the edges of windows and doors. If it blows, you've found a leak. Tell your parents.
- When you go in or out of the house, make sure the door is closed and latched behind you.
- Do not hold exterior doors open while talking to your friends – invite them in or step outside and close the door.
- When you leave the room, turn off the light.
- Be aware of your surroundings and that which is using energy, Turn off that which is unnecessary.